

June 15, 2012

Weekly Views

In celebration of Flag Day, the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit invited Indiana War Memorial Executive Director, Retired Indiana National Guard Brigadier General J. Stewart Goodwin, to speak about the American Flag. General Goodwin passionately delineated the history of the American flag, from its conception through the American Revolution, the World Wars, to its current significance and the symbolic meaning to the United States as a whole. Attendance to this event was mandatory for INVET residents, and open to other residents and staff to attend. (see photo below of IREF Release Specialist Mia Black, Retired Brigadier General Goodwin, and IREF Superintendent Steve Keverer)



Indiana State Police Pendleton Post Commander Lieutenant Robert Burke along with twelve Indiana State Police K-9 Officers toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility and met with staff. The visit focused on identifying ways the State Police and PCF K-9 Operations can benefit from a collaborative relationship for the purpose of sharing information, coordinating efforts and activities, and providing mutual assistance as needed.

Congratulations to Amanda Hall and Ellen Sheets. Because of her stellar performance with the IDOC, Amanda has been selected by National Institute of Corrections to help develop national best practices in programming policy through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act for the next two years. Amanda leaves Monday to head to her new station in Colorado. Effectively immediately, Ellen Sheets has been named the new Director of Case Management. She began her career with the Department in 2001 as a Correctional Counselor at Miami Correctional Facility. We anticipate great things from both of these talented women.

Ivy Tech Community College held a commencement ceremony at the Correctional Industrial Facility with 58 graduates for both GED and Vocational Trades. Mr. Demetrius Warren from Everlasting Dominion Fellowship was the guest speaker who delivered a motivational speech that gave examples of "being touched" by a higher being and having a vision. He also emphasized how it is never too late to start over and complete your goals.

Six staff from New Castle Correctional Facility assisted with feeding breakfast to approximately 150 kids attending the Henry County Sheriff's Camp.

Indiana State University graduate students toured Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) and even went to class with the WVCF mental health team! Wabash Corizon psychologist Dr. Brad Huffey, the Crisis Intervention class instructor, along with Branchville's Mental Health Professional Becca Gardner coordinated the tour with classroom presentations from Unit Team Manager Amy Rollings (Critical Incident Stress Management), Sergeant Jason Irvine (Situation Control) and de-escalation instruction from Dr. Julie Hoepfner (Special Needs Unit).

Offender Workforce Development Training concluded with the graduation of 28 individuals representing the Indiana Department of Correction, Department of Workforce Development, Community Corrections, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The training is facilitated through a cooperative agreement between PEN Products and the National Institute of Corrections, and serves an important role in reducing recidivism by building bridges between the IDOC and post release agencies.

Westville Correctional Facility celebrated its annual Family Day Open House. Members of the Employee Planning Action Committee (EPAC) hosted a wonderful event including lunch, facility tours, vendors and demonstrations by the facility's emergency Squad Units. The tour buses were filled with staff's family excited about getting to view the campus and to enter the Westville Correctional Unit. The EPAC estimated over 400 staff and family members participated in the day's festivities.

Commissioner Lemmon attended a graduation ceremony at Madison Correctional Facility's (MCU) for multiple facility programs. He complimented Madison's programs and the facility's high number of graduates and spoke to the graduates about the importance of education for gaining employment after release. Among those graduating were ten Business Technology graduates, 33 GED graduates, 30 Growth, Responsibility, Integrity, and Purpose (GRIP) graduates, 21 Residential Reformatory Re-Entry Program (RRRP) graduates, 20 Master Student Master Employee graduates, five graduates from Apprenticeship programs, four In2Work graduates, and seven cosmetologists and seven nail technicians from the Montgomery School of Cosmetology.

Rockville Correctional Facility held its second tent revival sponsored by Revival in Prison Ministry and David and Debbie Brewer, who were joined by Kairos volunteers from several IDOC facilities. Each session of this three-day event was attended by approximately 600 offenders. The offenders enjoyed music and a message of hope under the 40 x 60 foot tent erected especially for the event.

The Christian Motorcyclist Association, Breaking through Prison Ministry Bike Show made a visit to the Indiana State Prison. There were five bikes brought inside the facility. The group presented a prison a ministry program with Christian music, and offer fellowship to the offender population.